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Hungary

REPORT NO.

COUNTRY

TOPIC

1. 38th Hungarian AAA Division in Budapest

25X1

2. Miscellaneous Hungarian AAA Units

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PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT prior to 6 November 1951 25X1

DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 17 April 1952

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REFERENCES

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REMARKS

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General Data.

1. Prior to 6 November 1951, the headquarters of the 38th Hungarian AAA Div with [redacted] was located in Budapest. The division was subordinate either to the artillery department of the defense ministry or the headquarters of the Hungarian tank corps which was also located in Budapest. Indicative of the control of the unit by the artillery department of the Ministry of National Defense were the following facts. The bulk of the courier mail delivered to the division originated from this agency. A direct communication was established between the radio stations of the division and the general staff of the army. [redacted]

[redacted] most reports dispatched by the division were addressed to the artillery department of the Ministry of National Defense. Indicative of the control of the unit by the tank corps headquarters were the following facts. Some of the mail, chiefly unclassified letters, were forwarded daily to the tank corps headquarters located in the same building. A soldier, who had filed an application with the Ministry of National Defense, was referred, by the division, to the tank corps headquarters, to get the signature of the commanding general. In the spring of 1951, the commanding general of the tank corps and other officers of his headquarters attended a party given the officers of the division. (1)

2. [redacted] The designation of the division in Hungarian used in the radio messages sent to the division by the general staff of the army was Honvéd vezérkar (HVK). It also appeared on the six-cornered stamps of the classified material section used to stamp the courier mail and on the signal communication sketches prepared by the signal officer at the division headquarters as well as on the records of the personnel section.

3. The division headquarters was located on the fourth floor of the Park Hotel on Baross Square. The hotel is located east of this square at the corner formed by the south side of Kerepesi Street and the west side of Festetics Street. The radio station of the division was located on the seventh floor of the billets. Beginning in early November 1951, safes and office furniture of the division headquarters were taken from Park Hotel to Mester Street. [redacted] the division headquarters moved into other billets located on this street along side of a girls' school. The headquarters battery and the counterintelligence section of the division as well as an undetermined number of garages, which belonged to the division, were located in 2006/06/08 : CIA-RDP82-00417R000100320009-8

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According to talks in early November 1951, the headquarters battery was to move from the Matyas Barracks into another barracks installation on Haller Street, which was previously occupied by an AVH unit. Prior to 6 November 1951, the headquarters battery was still located in the Matyas Barracks.

4. The majority of the officers, NCOs and EM of the division headquarters wore uniforms with red service color and a white piping. Other service colors observed included claret, worn by members of the supply service; dark-blue, worn by the signal officer at the division headquarters; brown, worn by the motor transport officer; red, worn by the head of the artillery supply service; black, worn by the medical officers; and gray, worn by the clerks. The officers and NCOs wore the appropriate arm insignia of their respective branches of the service. AA artillerymen wore crossed-gun barrel insignia, topped with three ball projectiles; members of the supply service, a single-wheel insignia with a shock of wheat and a hammer crossed; the motor transport officer, a winged-wheel insignia; the division signal officer lightning cluster insignia; and medical officers and clerks golden buttons, embossed with the coat of arms of the republic.



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Organization.

6. Besides the individual sections of the headquarters, a headquarters battery belonged to the command group of the division headquarters. The division headquarters personnel included the division commander, the political officer, the division adjutant, the chief of staff (who was referred to as the commandant of the headquarters), the operations section, the counterintelligence section, the political section, the training section, the classified material section, (which was referred to as the G-office), the personnel section, the signal officer, the so-called auxiliary office, the supply group, and the finance section. The command group of the division headquarters totaled about 35 officers, 100 NCOs and EM, and eight to ten civilian employees.
7. The headquarters battery of the division was organized into the battery headquarters, one radio platoon, one telephone platoon, one reconnaissance platoon, one AA heavy machine gun platoon, and one motor transport platoon. The battery headquarters personnel included the battery commander, the political officer, the first sergeant and one clerk. In early November 1951, a radio direction finding platoon (legvédelmi rádióbeismerő szakasz) (IRB) was attached to the headquarters battery of the 38th AAA Div. The personnel of this platoon were already assigned to the headquarters battery. However, the equipment required had not been supplied. [redacted] the battalions of the medium AAA regiments, [redacted] similar radio direction finding platoons assigned to them.
8. Prior to 6 November 1951, two medium and two light AAA regiments were subordinate to the division. One light AAA regiment [redacted] was located in the former Bicycle Barracks in Vác (Q 48/H 65). The regiment, [redacted] was equipped with 37-mm AA guns. The other light AAA regiment [redacted] was located in Bánhida (Q 48/Y 94), in a

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new barracks installation directly southwest of the railroad station. One battery of this regiment was located in Mór (P 48/Y 81). In the fall of 1951, the regiment moved from Bánhida to Székesfehérvár (Q 48/Z 00).

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This regiment was also equipped with 37-mm AA guns. One medium AAA regiment was located in Dunaföldvár (Y 6/N 35). Originally, the regiment had occupied various billets including a former cloister near the main square of the city and not far from the bridge over the Danube River. In the fall of 1951, the regiment moved into a new barracks installation in Dunaföldvár. Two barracks installations had allegedly been constructed at this post. One of these installations had to be reconstructed as a result of architectural failures. The other medium AAA regiment, which had originally occupied various billets in Abony (Q 48/O 28), moved to Szolnok (Q 48/O 37) in the fall of 1951. In Abony, the regimental headquarters had been located in a former nunnery on the southeastern perimeter of the city. (2) The designation of one of the four above mentioned regiments was the 52d AAA Regt.

9. the division totaled 2,400 men, prior to the maneuvers held in the summer of 1951. (2)

Officers.

10. Officers included Major Miklós Bobák, division commander, about 45 years old; Major József Kapu, political officer, about 50 years old, who was very popular with the EM; and Major Wolf (fnu), chief of staff, a 45- to 50-year-old officer of the old Hungarian Army,

Senior Lieutenant Szatmári (fnu), commander of the light AAA Regt, in Vac; Captain Nemeth (fnu), commander of the medium AAA regiment in Abony; and Lieutenant Bosza (fnu), signal officer of the medium AAA regiment in Dunaföldvár.

Weapons and Equipment.

11. The members of the division headquarters and the headquarters battery were equipped with Soviet model M-48 rifles, submachine guns and pistols. The heavy AA machine gun platoon of the division headquarters had four old, used, Soviet-made, heavy 12.7-mm AA machine guns, which were badly worn. no guns other than light 37-mm AA guns and medium 85-mm AA guns with the units of the division. The batteries were equipped with Soviet-made ballistic directors and range finders. During the record firings of the division, held in the summer of 1951, no armor-piercing shells for the medium AA guns were available.

Training, Practices and Maneuvers.

12. Only soldiers who had either completed one year of active military service or enlisted for a longer period of time, served with the division headquarters. In October 1950, recruits were assigned to the headquarters battery. In view of the severe shortage of trained radio operators, EM were also ordered to give courses whose participants included NCOs. On one afternoon of every week, special officers' training was regularly held for all officers of the division headquarters. The training served to extend the technical knowledge of the participants and to give a survey of the fields assigned to the individual sections of the division headquarters. In addition, the officers were instructed in operating the weapons and the equipment of the division under the direction of the division commander. Advanced training courses lasting six to eight days, to which the division detached officers, were held monthly by the Ministry of National Defense. Such courses were held, for instance, in Várpalota

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(P 48/D 89) and Nagyoroszi (Q 49/H 68), in the AAA training grounds located there. It was expressly desired that each officer pass a driver's examination. Due to the shortage of motor vehicles, this goal was not completely achieved.

13. In January 1951, the division headquarters took part in a four-day command post exercise in Kiskunhalas (Y 4/N 70). In March 1951, another command post exercise, involving the division headquarters, was held in the area between Balatonrend (Y 5/D 75) and Tab (Y 5/W 00) under the direction of Colonel General Mihály Farkas. (3) It was an attack exercise during which the radio squad of the AAA division had to maintain communication with a tank division. During a third command post exercise held in July 1951, the division was subordinate to an infantry corps. The object of the exercise was to launch an attack in a south-eastern direction towards the ~~Thames~~ River using an infantry corps located in the Kiskunhalas area. In August 1951, the fourth and last command post exercise was also held in the Kiskunhalas area. Only the division headquarters and components of the headquarters battery took part in all the command post exercises.
14. On 10 June 1951, the division headquarters and the four AAA regiments subordinate to it moved into a summer camp in the Kamara Forest on the southwestern perimeter of Budapest and on the east side of Kamaraerdei Street. In early July 1951, 300 to 400 inductees to undergo reserve officer's training, arrived at the camp. In mid-September 1951, this training group was released. In mid-August 1951, an unidentified number of enlisted reserve replacements were drafted and reported at the camp. They were billeted in a separate section of the camp, trained and released from Nagyoroszi in early October 1951.
15. On 15 September 1951, the entire division moved by motor transportation into a tent camp in the area south of Nagyoroszi. [redacted] two AAA divisions and three or four other medium AAA regiments were assembled in the Nagyoroszi-Diosjenoe (Q 48/H 57) area for record firing at that time. A permanent AAA training camp was to be constructed near Nagyoroszi. Hard roads as well as brick buildings to serve as kitchens and storehouses were already located there. (4) Dummy tanks towed by a motor vehicle were fired on by light AA guns in this camp. The scores were satisfactory. [redacted] the scores of the light AA guns firing on a target towed at an altitude of about 1,500 meters were fairly poor. Firing with medium AA guns was confined to air targets at high altitudes. The fuzes of the shells were set at the 3,000 meter altitude mark. An aircraft flying at a far higher altitude was fired on with these guns. An observer riding in this plane had had/determine whether the burst was located on the gun-target line. [redacted] the medium AAA batteries achieved average scores. After the discharge of the reserve replacements the division returned to Budapest. Subsequently, the medium AAA regiment from Dunafoeldvar and one light AAA regiment participated in the fall maneuvers held around Kiskunhalas. The only member of the division headquarters to take part in these maneuvers was the division commander. He told the officers that these fall maneuvers were the first held in Hungary since the end of the war.
- Miscellaneous. [redacted]
16. [redacted] not more than 30 percent of the EM were to be allowed to go out at a time, pursuant to a secret order of the Ministry of National Defense. In the fall of 1951, [redacted] the division had received a voluminous parcel of records containing plans for ~~strategic~~ concentration with numerous maps attached. Pursuant to these plans, the division was to move to the Kiskunhalas area. Stories circulated that the Hungarian Army could fight the Yugoslavs without difficulty. However, it was indicated that difficulties would presumably arise in Greece, where the Hungarians would surely meet American troops.

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17. The EM serving with the division headquarters were members of the 1928 class. Deferred members of the 1923 to 1927 classes also served with the headquarters. The recruits inducted in the fall of 1950 were members of the 1929 and 1930 classes. All of them came from the Szekszárd (Y 5/B 66) area. (5) The discipline of the EM of the division headquarters and the headquarters battery was not too good. It frequently happened that soldiers talked to their officers with their hands in the pockets of their trousers and hesitated or were reluctant to execute orders. Most difficult were those soldiers who had already completed two years of active military service at [redacted] years and NCOs also were asked to the EM about the [redacted] alia during the

18. One Soviet officer was attached to the 38th AAA Div as an adviser. He was referred to as lieutenant colonel or colonel. Prior to the summer maneuvers, he prepared the plans together with the division commander, the chief of staff, and the head of the operations section. During the summer maneuvers, the activity of this officer focused on training the officers of the division headquarters.

Other Hungarian AAA Units.

19. The headquarters of another AAA division was located in the Mátyás Barracks in Budapest. [redacted] the mission of this AAA division was to take over the AA defense of the home territory. The 38th AAA Div, however, was available for foreign service. Subordinate to the division in the Mátyás Barracks were the 77th Medium AAA Regt [redacted] 25X1 and another medium AAA regiment [redacted] which was located in 25X1 Budafok up to September 1951 and moved to an unidentified destination at that time. Other AAA units [redacted] included a light AAA regiment in 25X1 Suettoer (P 48/X 83), an AAA unit in Pestszentloerinc (Q 48/H 61) and a 25X1 light AAA regiment [redacted] in Komarom (P 48/Y 75). [redacted] 25X1 During the maneuvers held in the summer of 1951, [redacted] members of an AAA unit [redacted] 25X1 in Diosjenoe. [redacted] 37-mm guns at this unit. [redacted] 25X1 another AAA unit was located in the barracks installation on Budaoersi Street in Budapest. He thought it possible that the headquarters of another AAA division was located in Debrecen, as the chief of staff of the 38th AAA Div allegedly became a division commander at that post. (6)

Comments:

- (1) Previous reports stated that [redacted] an AAA division head- 25X1 quarters in Budapest. The 38th AAA Div is not identical to an AAA division [redacted] subordinate to the national air defense command (O.L.P.) 25X1 and also located in Budapest. [redacted] The 38th AAA Div 25X1 may be subordinate to two headquarters. In a technical respect, that is with regard to organization, equipment and training, it seems to be subordinate to the artillery department of the Ministry of National Defense; with regard to discipline and, possibly, also in a tactical respect, it seems to be subordinate to the tank corps in Budapest.
- (2) The occupation of Bányhida, Székesfehérvár and Dunaföldvár by AAA units was mentioned in previous reports. The 2,400 men indicated in the present report conforms exactly to the war strength of a Soviet square AAA division.

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- (3) According to various press dispatches, Colonel General Farkas was arrested in connection with a purge in July 1951.
- (4) According to other reports, the Diosjenos AAA range was occupied to capacity by AAA units in the summer of 1951. At that time, about 6,000 reservists were allegedly trained there.
- (5) The present report substantiates the belief that the 1931 class was due to be inducted in the fall of 1951. A limited number of reports on their induction were already received.
- (6) Other reports stated that the AAA division headquarters in the Matyas Barracks in Budapest [] It is subordinate to the national air defense command (O.L.P.) in Budapest. The 77th Medium AAA Regt and AAA Regt [] 25X1 are fairly definitely believed to be units of this division. The Light AAA Regt [] in Komarom is believed to be an independent training and replacement unit. []

[] Comment:

- * This designation for an AAA division is very unlikely; the Hungarian term merely means Honvéd (Armed Forces) General Staff.
- ** This Hungarian term, according to a previous report, is a cover name for radar units.

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